

The Northfield Press

PUBLISHED in the INTEREST of the PEOPLE of NORTHFIELD and VICINITY

No. 4840

Northfield, Mass. Friday, October 1, 1948

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TOWN PLANNING BOARD PROPOSED AT LOCAL VFW POST MEETING

In a move designed to weld the various organizations of the town into a unified group, Commander John W. Bennett and the Northfield Post 9874 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have come forward with the proposal that the local clubs and groups join together and form a "Town Planning Board."

The "Board" would consist of the heads of the organizations who would meet at regularly scheduled periods to act on community-wide projects and problems.

The creation of an all-inclusive body of this kind would tend to eliminate the overlapping of functions and aims according to Commander Bennett and would make more cohesive any action taken by separate organizations toward the same goal.

Immediate steps will be taken to bring together all the organizations, heads to study ways and means of forming an effective organization and to develop it into a forceful permanent group.

As was pointed out, the formation of an efficient cooperative town organization would facilitate the promotion of such affairs as the now-delayed town anniversary celebration, the development of town swimming pool and many other moves designed for the general welfare of the community.

With the departure of Edward Hurley to the seat of higher learning, Boston, the Wednesday night meeting of the VFW appointed his brother Tom as Quartermaster of the Post with A. Eugene Irish succeeding Tom Hurley as Chaplain.

Delegates attending were: County Council, Tom Hurley, and Harry Gingras; alternates, George Bu-

trinski and Robert W. Gingras; District and Department Councils, the above named and Mark Wright and M. P. Farcolo, with Carroll Mankowsky and Joseph Brown as Alternates.

A Harbison Committee was also appointed consisting of Tom Hurley, Harry Gingras and M. P. Farcolo.

The next meeting, Grange Hall, October 30, 8 p.m.

Films Feature Grange Booster Night Meeting

Northfield Grange No. 3 members and guests, had an opportunity to look back some ten years on Tuesday night when Dr. F. Wilton Dean presented a motion picture showing of films taken following the 1938 hurricane. The "Booster night" audience also had an opportunity to see some fine pictures taken on a recent Florida trip, highlighted by some excellent shots of undersea life taken at the Marine Studios, Marine Land, Florida.

Speakers for the evening were: L. J. Lawrence, who outlined the functions of the school committee and answered questions from the audience; Unto Hantunen, Editor of the PRESS, who spoke briefly on the adoption of Camiers, France by the Press and pointed out to the Grange and to the audience what they could do to help in this program; Miss Marjorie Ware spoke on the educational aid offered by the Grange to deserving boys and girls. Mrs. Isabel Carter, Worthy Master, also spoke briefly during the evening as did Mrs. Willis Parker, who thanked the Grange for inviting the teachers to the Grange meeting.

Mrs. Gertrude Gibson conducted the program and introduced five past masters present at the meeting: Louis Chapin, Carroll Miller, Charles F. State, Mark Wright and Charles Olin.

Mrs. Arthur H. Stone, Lecturer of the Grange, was in overall charge of the program, with Miss Marion Allen, chairman of the refreshment committee aided by Mrs. Walter Clark and Mrs. Lewis Shine. Mrs. Bernard Whitney played the piano for group singing.

Mrs. Robert P. Barnes
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BRATTLEBORO

Evening Classes Will Start At High School

The Northfield School Committee at its regular meeting, September 25, 1948, approved the addition of two extra noon routes to care for the first grade transportation until December 1, 1948.

James Dresser's first grade noon trip was approved at \$35.00 per month till December 1st, which is an addition to his regular trip at \$100.00 per month.

Luman Barber's first grade noon trip was approved at \$125.00 per month in addition to his \$100.00 per month regular trip.

The Northfield Transfer rate was approved at \$22.50 per day, an increase of \$1.50 per day over the last school year rate.

The School committee voted to approve the construction of a sign made of gold leaf on a black sand background, for the Northfield High School at approximately \$65.00, \$40.00 which will be paid by the class of '48 as a gift to the school. At the same time the School Committee voted to construct a similar sign on the Center School.

Superintendent Taylor reported that there was a demand for evening commercial classes again and that a number of persons have signified their desire to sign up if such a class is organized. The school committee approved the use of a High School classroom two evenings a week from seven to nine. The pupils are to pay the instructor directly at a rate to be determined by him. Classes are to begin Monday, October 4, 1948 and will meet twice a week for twenty weeks. All persons interested contact either Mr. M. Carleton Brown or principal George Leonard at the High School, or call the office of Supt. of Schools.

The School Committee approved the payment of the tuition for summer school classes of Evelyn Parker and Ruth Bolton.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson, teacher of grade one since 1947, tendered her resignation today. Mrs. Hudson is moving to Hyannis where her husband has obtained a new position. Her resignation becomes effective November 1, 1948.

Town Topics

On Tuesday evening, September 28th the 12th Lodge of Instruction of the Masonic Fraternity met with Morning Sun Lodge at Conway. The speaker was R. W. George W. Gray, Junior Grand Warden of the Grand Lodge. Several members of Harmony Lodge of Northfield were in attendance.

Mrs. Charles Gunn of Sunderland who has occupied her cottage here this summer in the Highlands has returned to her home.

New Officers For The Local Legion Post

Opening another year of activity with a banquet at the Chase House in North Bernardston, the Haven H. Spencer Post of the American Legion, elected the following officers: Edward M. Powell, Jr., Commander; Robert D. Johnson, Adjutant; Sgt. at Arms, William Urquhart; Finance Officer, Richard Steenbruggen; Chaplain, Lester White; Historian, Warren Whitman.

Outgoing Commander Steenbruggen gave a report on the activities of the Post for the past year and then called on various officers and committee chairmen for reports.

During the meeting it was suggested that the Post endorse the adoption program for the French town of Camiers as sponsored by The Northfield Press, but action was deferred until the next meeting when Unto Hantunen, Editor of the Press, will speak on the subject.

Informal installation ceremonies will take place in the Legion rooms of the town hall October 21. The exercises will be held jointly by the Legion and the Auxiliary, with district officers expected to be present to conduct the installation.

The Haven H. Spencer Post will also sponsor a Halloween Party for the children of the town on October 30. It is expected that the program will be highlighted by a parade, bonfire and a program at the town hall. Refreshments will also be served. It is expected that other organizations will join in working on the program.

The next regular meeting of the Post will be on Tuesday, October 26, at the Legion rooms.

The following members, present along with the officers-elect, were: Raymond Miller, A. Eugene Irish, Harold Briesmaster, Dr. Richard Holton, Edgar J. Livingston, William M. Marshall, Edward Luciw, Thomas Hurley, Edward F. Hurley, Unto Hantunen, Fred Avery and Edward M. Powell, Jr.

Town Topics

Carl H. Nilman, who built and conducts the Northfield "Drive-In" movie theatre on the Hinsdale road, has undertaken the construction of another similar project on the highway to the west of Shelburne Falls. The Northfield theatre has been very successful and is just over the state line in Winchester.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Spaulding of this town have purchased from Mrs. Ona Evans Briggs a tract of woodland on the east side of Winchester road which is just beyond their home.

Joseph Rawson has sold to Morris Merrifield of North Hinsdale N. H., his property on the Millers Falls road.

A large attendance is anticipated at the annual business meeting of the local Congregational Church on Wednesday evening at 7:30 o'clock at the church. Supper will be served to all attending at 6:30 o'clock.

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Pioneer Valley Assn. Booklet Wins Award

A booklet produced by the Pioneer Valley Association of western Massachusetts was one of the best pieces of literature produced by U. S. and Canadian industry, it was announced here today at the 31st annual conference of the District Mail Advertising Association, meeting at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel. Miss Elizabeth Shoemaker, Executive Director of the Pioneer Valley Association received the award for designing the best piece of literature submitted in the community development or tourist industry, a ten billion dollar U. S. business.

Other winners of 1948 Merit Awards in the same classification as the Pioneer Valley booklet include the Packard Motor Car Co.; U. S. Gypsum Co.; RKO Radio Pictures, Inc.; Carson Pirie Scott and Co.; The American Cyanamid Co.; Reader's Digest International Co.; Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. of Canada, Ltd.; and the National Broadcasting Co. The Department of Commerce of the State of Pennsylvania received the community development award for industrial promotion, and the N. Y. Times and N. Y. World Telegram for the newspaper divisions.

Miss Shoemaker received the national honor from Ellis G. Bishop Advertising Manager of the Royal Typewriter Co., New York City, Chairman of a committee of judges who told the winners that the advertising examples submitted filled a complete room and were "characterized by intelligence and imagination." Mr. Bishop said that more campaigns were submitted than ever before in the 20 year old annual competition and that "days were devoted to the judging." One hundred and twenty-two U. S. and Canadian industries received awards, with the Pioneer Valley Association as one of those so honored.

Alliance Meeting To Be In Springfield

Members of the afternoon and evening Alliances of the Unitarian Church have been invited to attend a special meeting at the Church of the Unity, 207 State street, Springfield, Mass., October 4. There will be a talk by Mrs. Margot Pickson of St. Louis, president of the Grand Alliance, who just returned from Europe. The afternoon session will be at 2:30 p. m. and supper at 6:15.

Rt. Rev. Lawrence At Sage Chapel Sunday

Sunday preachers at the Northfield Schools October 3 will be Henry S. Lieper of the World Council of Churches of New York in Russell Sage Chapel at 11 o'clock and the Rt. Rev. W. Appleton Lawrence, the Bishop of Western Massachusetts, in Memorial Chapel at 10:30 a. m. A world wide communion service will be held in Russell Sage Chapel at 4:30 p. m. Sunday afternoon.

ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSE ADOPTION. RESPONSE CONTINUES MORE NEEDED

Tax Rates 'Jumping' All Over The State

The average tax rate for the 351 cities and towns in Massachusetts has jumped \$3.30 this year to a record \$42.34, the Massachusetts Federation of Taxpayers Associations reported last night. When added to the tax boost of 1945 and 1946 it brings the average increase for the past three years to nearly \$10.

Double distinction of the highest tax rate and the greatest increase goes to the city of Newburyport with a rate of \$67 and a spectacular one-year increase of \$17.50. Nine towns and one other city, Chelsea, have reached or passed the \$60 level. Boston with a \$53.40 rate is surpassed by seven other cities.

At the other extremity, eight small towns have contrived to hold their rates at below \$25, as against 14 last year. The island-town of Gosnold continues to lead the field with a rate of \$16. Russell maintains its second place position of last year with a current rate of \$17.50.

Rates for 1948 are down in 49 communities, unchanged in 33, and up in the remaining 269. As usual, the decreases occurred in the very small towns where the purchase of a fire truck will create a major disturbance in local finances. Principal exception to this rule was the large industrial town of Webster which reduced its rate \$19, from \$50 to \$31, following a professional reappraisal of its property which resulted in nearly doubling its assessed valuation. The Webster decrease was the largest in the state, and possibly the most controversial.

Commenting on the increase, Lyman H. Taylor, Federation spokesman in announcing the survey, said: "The fact that the average tax rate is not in eight years has indications that the 1949 increase may be smaller than the increase of the past three years."

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 1, Fortnightly meeting, 3 p. m. Rep. John W. Heselson, speaker.
October 3, Open House at the Phelps Art Studio, 9:11 to 9 p. m.
Youth Rally at the Advent Christian Church, 7 p. m.
October 6, P-T-A meeting, Alexander Hall, 8 p. m.
October 7, Northfield Forum, Town Hall 8 p. m.
V. F. W. Women will meet at the home of Mrs. Mott P. Guhee, 8 p. m.
October 10, Rally Sunday at the Advent Christian Church, 11 a. m.
Annual Fall meeting of the Conn. Valley Conference of Unitarian Churches in Warwick, 3:15 p. m.
October 12, Columbus Day.
October 14, Afternoon Alliance Meeting, 2:30 p. m. Mrs. Gertrude Whitney, speaker.
Evening Alliance meeting, Robert Wert, speaker: "Present Day Use of Traditional American Decorative Art."
October 16, Fortnightly meeting, 3 p. m. Miss Dorothea G. Norton, speaker.
October 21, Haven H. Spencer Post and Auxiliary, Joint Installation, Legion rooms.
October 26, Regular meeting of Haven H. Spencer Post, American Legion.
October 30, Halloween Party for the kids.

Town Adoption Plan Gradually Developing

With the endorsement, by several local organizations, of the town adoption program as sponsored by the PRESS, now on record, new momentum has been gained and all indications point to a successful future for the idea and for the little French town of Camiers.

With the compilation of additional names of those families and individuals desiring to adopt families and children in the "adopted" town on hand the list is growing daily, however more names are needed in anticipation of the report the PRESS is expecting from the committee now working in Camiers.

The Editor of the PRESS, in speaking to a large group of Grange members and guests, at a recent meeting, stressed the importance of all the organizations in Northfield joining together in one great effort to push this adoption program across. At the same time, it was noted that the individual families can do their share by writing or calling the Northfield Press for further information.

To facilitate the exchange of letters between families, and children, a number of French-speaking townspeople have volunteered their services in translating any letters received from France. When the initial information was received from Camiers many names of the children were underlined, meaning that these children were in urgent need of clothing. Their ages range from 5 to 15. A number of these children have already been adopted and letters clothing and food have been dispatched to them. However, there are 471 children in the town, and a large proportion of them are in need of clothing.

Sample package descriptions will be printed in next week's Press for the information and guidance of those sending material to Camiers.

Public Warned That Trees Are in Danger

Several years ago, when the Dutch Elm tree leaf beetle was attacking the trees of other communities, little attention was paid to the dread killer of trees. Now, with the discovery of the dreaded insect in Northfield, the Northfield Garden Club has taken steps to sound the alarm so that property owners in town will come to realize the seriousness of the threat.

Mr. Clarence F. Caldwell of the Franklin Tree Expert Co., of Greenfield will lecture, and show slides, on the subject at the next meeting of the Garden Club at Alexander Hall, 7:45 p. m., Oct. 4. Mr. Caldwell, being familiar with this area, and also with the Dutch Elm tree leaf beetle, can be expected to advocate proper measures for the elimination of the danger that now confronts the elm trees of Northfield.

Realizing that this question is of town-wide importance the Garden Club has thrown its meeting open to everyone and has urged the town to take advantage of this opportunity to join the fight against the Dutch Elm beetle. Phillip Porter, Chairman of the Program committee of the Northfield Garden Club, has pointed out the grave danger now facing the elms of Northfield and that it would be well to look into this matter immediately.

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Unto Hantunen
Assistant Editor
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the Act of March 3, 1879."

The Ideal Method

New names and new organizations are added every day to the growing list of those supporting the adoption of Camiers, France by the PRESS. Despite the very creditable response more names are needed and wanted.

The committee now formed in Camiers for the purpose of ascertaining the needs and conditions of the families in that town has not forwarded the necessary information to the PRESS. Due to this delay complete information as to exact needs of the town can not be determined. The mere fact that time is growing short makes it all the more necessary that we have as many names as possible for the time when the information does arrive. If we are to act effectively we must act swiftly when the times comes if aid is to reach them for Christmas.

It should be the aim of those willing to help that whatever they send to a family or a child reach them by Christmas.

In speaking to an audience of Grange members and guests the other night the Editor of the Press stressed the fact that the Grange, or any other organization in town, could play a part in this adoption program. Individuals too have a very important part in this adoption plan — their personal part may be small, but when added to the total effort it will be a great contribution indeed.

The person-to-person individualized phase of this adoption plan cannot be ignored, for that is the very thing that makes this plan the ideal method through which we can aid the people of Camiers.

If the situation warrants, a bulk shipment will be made later, but in the meantime personal contact will be emphasized.

There has been no plea for funds, for the Medway Plan under which this town adoption functions stresses the point that there is no middleman agency handling the program. However, the PRESS has received several donations and will use the money, not for supporting and administrative work, but directly for the assistance of Camiers.

The PRESS is eager to see the idea of adoption take root, not only in Northfield, but throughout the United States — therefore we seek your help.

Write the Northfield Press. Call 429!

Informal Sessions

We heard by way of the "grapevine" that some of those who participate in the public forum meetings held in the town hall are telling friends and neighbors about the "informal way in which everyone has a chance to let off steam!" One gentleman was overheard describing a meeting: "Just like sitting in your own living room talking to friends."

Those are the kind of statements we like to hear. The whole idea behind the forum is to give the "wide-awake" citizens of Northfield a chance to discuss, with their friends, the problems that confront all of us in these hectic days. We want to keep these discussions informal so that even the most timid member of the group will have a chance to air his or her views.

Subjects to be discussed at each session are chosen by the group, and we try to select those most timely. So far, discussion has been on topics of general, or national, interest, but we shall be glad to discuss local problems as well. Anyone wishing to make suggestions for coming forum meetings should get in touch with the PRESS.

Don't forget to attend the next session: Thursday, October 7 at 8 p. m. in the Town Hall. Come along and talk about your political parties and candidates.

Low Cost Housing

One of the great domestic problems in the United States is, has been and probably will be, the housing question. Everybody talks about it — but nobody does anything about it. Just like the weather.

Of course there are exceptions in every case, particularly among the smaller builders, but generally the chicken-coop type development operators are the biggest offenders.

Everybody advertises — "New Low Cost Housing." So then, what

THE "SQUEEZE" BOX

(Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. All letters must be signed by the writer — the name will not be used if you so desire.)

Mr. Unto Hantunen, Editor,
NORTHFIELD PRESS
East Northfield, Mass.

Dear Mr. Hantunen:

We are tremendously interested in the project which you have inaugurated of adopting a French village. Having come recently from France, and knowing the sufferings that are being experienced there as a result of the war, we are more than eager to see such a project take root in this country. If only people here in America who are living in comfortable homes could bicycle as we did through little villages that are totally or partially destroyed by bombings and see the pitiful conditions under which people are living, their hearts would be stirred to participate in such a venture. I am sure.

When we were in Paris, we discovered that the food was so meagre that it was affecting people very generally. In the little pension where we stayed we were served tea without milk of sugar, and bread without butter, cheese, or marmalade as our breakfast, and the bread consisted of two pieces only. This seemed to us a very small breakfast, but in a few days even the bread was cut out, as we had no points to cover it. I tried to add to our breakfast by securing some jam or milk in some of the little shops but was unable to do so until I located a can of Libby's milk, imported from America, which we were able to buy by also purchasing a package of very ancient floorice. The floorice was hard and dry and resembled nails more than candy, but I put it in my pocket and gave it to little children on the street who looked particularly pitiful and hungry, and who reached for it as eagerly as though it were the most delicious sort of confection.

The people themselves are tremendously eager to make contacts with America. They are thirsty for the knowledge that people here care.

Even more significant than any gift that can be sent will be letters carrying the feeling of good will and warmth. Books for little children, magazines for the older people will be eagerly received too. Everyone dreams some day of coming to America, and all are eager to learn the English language.

I sincerely hope that the adoption of a French town will receive all the backing and support which it deserves.

Cordially yours,

Isabel Smith,

Co-founder AYH

do you find the cost to be — the low figure of \$10,000.

The amazing thing about it all is the fact that America is loaded with brains, with talent, with tools, with money — and everything that it can buy. Yet out of all this incredible mass of intelligence, and "knowhow", not one of them has come up with a reasonable scheme of low priced housing.

A nation-wide conference is held. The gray matter oozes out of every nook and cranny — then the result is announced! The solution has been found! What is the solution?

It goes something like this: They have discovered a new type house that any working man can build in his spare time — or have some friend build it for him — or even his four year old son. The price, excluding the sump pump for the wet cellar, is \$15,000. This, as we all know, is well within the income of any average working man making \$7,000 a year can easily make ends meet if they were buying this house — providing of course that the \$7,000 man were getting periodic raises — say once a week.

Getting back to the point however — we again ask, why somebody in this land of ours can't devise a practical method for building real low cost homes, instead of staring at the ceiling and muttering into the cuff of his silk shirt sleeve, such things, as, "Labor costs so much now, you know." Materials are up. "Nails are hard to get." "Faucet washers are impossible to find," etc. — and so on, far into the night and into next year.

Stop the "Why Not?" — Start the "Why's".

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COLONIAL CHRONICLES

History in the Making in Northfield
NUMBER THIRTY-THREE IN THE SERIES
Prepared by the Northfield Historical Society

The last war had caused considerable traveling and getting acquainted with out-of-town people, much as did the Crusades and like the latter encouraged more exchange of goods, as well as ideas.

Not the least of these were the increasing friction and misunderstanding between the colonies and England. The colonial idea of the nature of English authority and the Mother Country's had never been identical. The colonial legislatures stood out for American rights. Royal charters to the English across the Atlantic stood for the King's power. Down the years these two had been in conflict. The mercantile system of having England maintain a favorable balance of trade, thereby having the English merchants rich, and the navigation acts that helped it were not to the colonists liking, with the result that enforcement was often nearly impossible. With the colonies so distant from the king and parliament and with the old English principal of no taxation without representation ever in the minds of the colonists as right, the Revolution and independence were the natural outcome. Town meetings, legislatures where people had representative government, and experience in the previous wars all had led to self-government and ability to wage a war to stand for their rights.

This concludes this series of Colonial Chronicles, or History in the Making in Northfield. The immigration from England to Massachusetts and Connecticut, thence up the Connecticut River to this beautiful valley was a matter of carrying out a religious principle, coupled with an effort to better an economic distress. Just what caused this distress when we think of England in Queen Elizabeth's time as prosperous? History tells us that it was shifting from small farms that produced cattle, horses, sheep, and wheat, to sheep raising with large farm owners and wool manufacturers holding control and needing less labor, resulting in much unemployment. The immigration brought a fine middle class of society, led by well educated men of Puritan views, a sturdy stock, willing to undergo hardships for the principles they cherished. In consequence, our national government and customs have been enriched by ideas such as government deriving its authority from the people and such as the importance of religion and of education, for New England people and ways spread west.

Northfield was a part of this "Puritan Outpost", to quote our Historian, Herbert Parsons.

(THE END)

VETERANS BULLETIN BOARD

Northfield young men may enlist in the Regular Army for specialist training in Public Information work. Men desiring this type of work, which corresponds to the civilian Public Relations field, must enlist directly from civilian status, with or without previous military service. Age limits have been set at 18 to 25, inclusive.

M. Sgt. Jack C. Evans said that following basic training, those selected will attend a course in Public Information at the Armed Forces Information School, Carlisle Barracks, Penn. After completing the course, they will be placed on temporary duty for 90 days with various civilian

newspapers, radio, and television stations who are cooperating in the program.

Men who successfully complete this training will be Public Information Specialists (MOS 274). They will be assigned to Public Information work in the United States or overseas.

In outlining the program, Sgt. Evans emphasized the fact that this training is not only of value within the Army, but may be used to great advantage in seeking civilian employment.

Further information is available at the U. S. Army and U. S. Air Force Recruiting Station, 355 Main Street, Athol, Mass.

Absentee Voters May Now File For Ballots

Town Clerk Josephine S. Haskell has issued information to all those legally registered voters of Northfield who may be absent from town on Election day, Nov. 2, and who would like to vote with an Absentee Ballot.

Anyone desiring a ballot should write to Mrs. Josephine S. Haskell, Town Clerk, Northfield, and request an application, which then should be returned, properly filled out, and then the town clerk will forward the ballot and all pertinent information. The ballot itself must then be returned to her, prior to the closing of the polls on Nov. 2.

so that it may be counted.

All applications for absentee voting are examined by the Board of Registrars.

Relatives of men, or women, serving overseas with the Armed Forces may secure absentee ballots for the absent service-man. The relatives must themselves be registered voters.

Board of Trustees To Meet at Holbrook Hall

The Fall meeting of the Board of trustees of the Northfield Schools will be held Saturday, October 2, at Holbrook Hall, Mt. Hermon School for Boys.

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LORETTA YOUNG
ROBERT MITCHEM
WILLIAM HOLDEN

Wed. - Thurs. Oct. 6 - 7
"HATTER'S CASTLE"
and
"I WOULDN'T BE IN YOUR SHOES"

Fri. - Sat. Oct. 8 - 9
"SMART WOMAN"
and
"WEST OF SONORA"

THE PRESS
Your Local Paper

LATCHIS MEMORIAL
BRATTLEBORO
2:15 6:30 8:30

Sun. - Tues. Oct. 3 - 5
"KEY LARGO"
HUMPHREY BOGART
EDWARD G. ROBINSON

Wed. - Thurs. Oct. 6 - 7
"NEW ORLEANS"
ARTURO DECORDOVA

Fri. - Sat. Oct. 8 - 9
"INTRIGUE"
George RAFT June HAVER

AUDITORIUM
Mon. - Tues. Sept. 4 - 5
"THE MACOMBER AFFAIR"
GREGORY PECK

Wed. - Thurs. Sept. 6 - 7
"Breakfast in Hollywood"
TOM BRENNEMAN

Fri. - Sat. Sept. 8 - 9
"SONS of ADVENTURE"
and
"THE FABULOUS JOE"

GARDEN Theatre Greenfield
Continuous from 1:30

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Political Platforms To Be Examined

"Political Parties and their Platforms" will be the topic for discussion at the fourth session of the Northfield Forum at the town hall on Thursday, October 7, at 8 p.m.

Copies of the platforms of the major parties will be distributed for the discussion period and the round-table participants will then examine the virtues and the vices of the many-planked platforms.

The essence of any democratic system of government is reflected in well attended public gatherings in which the welfare of all people is considered.

As has been the case in the past these discussions are open to the public. Everyone is welcome, and invited to come, either as participants or as spectators.

Fall Conference Of Unitarian Churches

The annual Fall meeting of the Conn. Valley Conference of Unitarian Churches will be held in

Warwick, October 14 at 8:15.

The theme for the meeting this year will be "Religious Education and Public Schools", with Prof. J. Paul Williams of the Dept. of Religious Education at Mount Holyoke College as speaker. There also will be a A. U. Y. meeting.

Following a business meeting and election of officers there will be a supper at the Warwick Inn. The evening meeting from 7:15 to 8:15 will be conducted by the Rev. Truman L. Hayes of Athol, with the Rev. Duncan Howlett of the First Unitarian Church of Boston, chairman of Planning and Review, as speaker.

The organist for the Conference will be Mrs. Belle Conant Marden.

Commemoration Plans Not Now - Next Year

Plans for the commemoration of the town's 275th anniversary of settlement and 225th year of incorporation have been carried over until next year, according to Miss Elsie S. Scott, president of the

Northfield Historical Society.

It proposed members of the committee to arrange for the celebration have been notified that the celebration will not be held this year. However it is hoped, according to Miss Scott, that the committee will reform and begin work on this worthwhile project.

Celebrating anniversaries late has been done before so that Northfield's celebration would be no exception.

Monkeys Make Good Showing In High Altitude

Yale university physiologists have demonstrated for the first time that it is possible to expose a monkey to an altitude of over 14 miles in a pressure chamber and bring him out alive.

This report was made at a meeting of the aviation physiology section of the American Physiological Society by Dr. Samuel Gelfen.

The research, although performed on animals, has significance for high altitude fliers and airplane passengers.

Out of all the monkeys which were suddenly exposed to altitudes ranging from 70,000 to 75,000 feet in decompression chamber tests, only one died. In this instance there were other contributory causes.

The monkeys taken to this extremely high altitude—which in nature has a temperature of about 65-70 degrees below zero Fahrenheit—were returned to sea level immediately at a "free fall" rate of almost 200 miles per hour. This is comparable to a man falling out of a plane at a high altitude and plunging earthwards without opening a parachute. It took almost five minutes to bring the monkeys back to sea level pressures.

Previous experiments had been made on rats, but the monkey, which is an animal closest to man, had never been decompressed to 75,000 feet. Amazingly enough, the monkeys withstood the shock more readily than the rats, which experienced a 50 per cent mortality in experiments.

Use of Iron as a Fertilizer

Egyptian pharaohs of 4,000 B. C. wore strings of iron meteorite beads to ward off evil spirits. Swords forged from meteorite iron by the Assyrians and Persians were supposed to possess magical power that protected their owners from all possible harm. An iron meteor that fell in Asia Minor was worshipped by the Phoenicians as Cybele, mother of the gods. The sacred Black Stone of the Mohammedans, enshrined at the center of their Holy-of-Holies in Mecca, has been described, doubtless by disbelievers, as a large meteorite. The Romans drove iron nails into the walls of their homes as an antidote against the plague.

Carp in France Grew Big

There are some enormous carp in the fish ponds of the Chateau de Chantilly, France, which are believed to be well over a century old. Just before the war two men were punished at Baden, near Vienna, for stealing from a local lake two carp estimated to be so old they had been registered under the Austrian office for the preservation of ancient monuments. There is a record, too, of an enormous carp being caught some years ago in the most of a castle in Bavaria which had a ring in its gills, proving it to have been at least 260 years old.

El Salvador Well Cultivated

Ranking next to Haiti, El Salvador, with an area of 131,176 square miles, is the smallest country of all the Americas. Almost every bit of the land is cultivated, for not only is El Salvador an industrious country but it has 1,800,000 inhabitants to support. Coffee is the chief product and chief export item. This country ranks third in world coffee production. El Salvador is an agricultural country which boasts a great many products. Surrounded by volcanoes and mountains, this tiny country is beautiful beyond description.



Excessive Use of Lime Exhausts Soil Fertility

Liming can exhaust rather than rebuild soil fertility, unless lime is accompanied by the return of other needed plant food elements to the soil, declares Dr. William A. Albrecht, University of Missouri.

"Up to the present time in our land use," says Dr. Albrecht, "we have been putting limestone on our



soils under the mistaken belief that its benefits rested only in reducing soil acidity. We have gone ahead with our campaign with the idea that lime is all that is needed, and that if a little is good, more will be better.

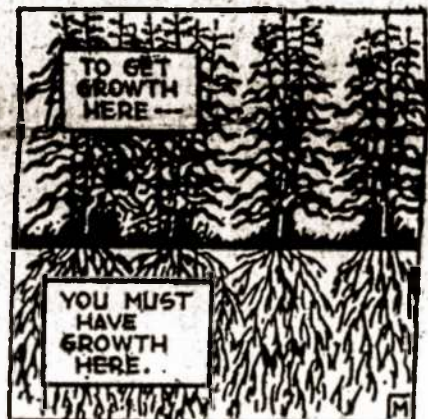
This generous use of lime has helped produce more proteins in legume forage and other crops. But the added crop production has used up other plant food elements. Among these potash has been the most prominent.

"We have credited the lime and the neutralization of the soil with working wonders, but we have not realized that liming by itself was helping exhaust our soil fertility more rapidly," he points out.

"It is essential," concludes Dr. Albrecht, "to remember that we need potash to make the carbohydrates in the growing plant before we can convert them into protein."

Sturdy Roots Required For Top Crop Output

No crop can do a better crop producing job than the roots that nourish it. To get strong, healthy, bushel-producing growth above the ground, you have to have a sturdy root development below the surface. Roots need plenty of "living room" to stretch out for moisture,



air and plant nutrients. They need that room not only in the plow layer, but also in the subsoil below.

It takes plenty of organic matter to keep a clay or loam soil roomy, well drained and ventilated. Part of that organic matter is burned up every year in producing crops. If it is not replaced, then your soil packs down. It becomes "stuffy" and hard to cultivate. It loses its sponginess, or porosity. Roots cannot grow readily, top growth suffers and lower crop yields result.

Several steps are necessary to get good catches of legumes. Liming, based on soil tests, is important. So is the application of fertilizer carrying phosphate and potash.

To round out a balanced soil management program and add to the organic matter supply, animal manure and crop residues should be returned to the soil.

Steel Farm Trailer



This two-wheeled farm trailer has an all-steel frame on which any type of body can be placed. Welded fabrication on the trailer frame eliminates bolts which work loose and cause rattles or breakdowns. The tongue in this trailer is attached in a way that avoids trouble in service. It was designed at Colorado A & M college.

Johnson Grass Control Termed Community Job

Johnson grass control is a community job because it requires the attention of everyone in the neighborhood, according to Purdue University. Watch for new bunches of Johnson grass that start in clean fields. Kill them by pulling or hoeing before deep roots are formed. The grass spreads both by seeds and root parts and is scattered by water, in hay, by cultivator or wind.

SHORT STORY

Moving Day

By EDWARD EARL LEE

THE quitting bell sounded through the office and immediately ordered routine gave way to confusion as workers prepared to leave. That is, all but one. Jerome Clayton remained seated, elbows leaning on the polished top and cupped palms supporting his chin.

Jerry's abstracted gaze watched employees' hurried exits. His emotionless voice answered hastily uttered farewells. Last Friday he had been part of that scene. This

Friday . . . well, no use hurrying home to be greeted by four bare walls.

Of course, Helen would take the furniture. She had bought it by installments from her salary. Jerry recalled how her grey eyes lighted with pleasure when first she had seen the suite. "Modernistic Design," she had announced, identifying it.

A slammed door interrupted his reverie causing him to glance up. He recognized the elevator operator and realized the man was taking his last look around to ascertain if all the employees had gone. Jerry hurriedly locked the desk, slapped on his hat and rode down.

It was then he remembered Jack's poker session, pre-arranged for six o'clock. He shrugged. All week he had been groping for a suitable excuse to tell Helen. Now that none was required, he had no desire to sit in at the game. Well, no use mooning around down here. He walked away slowly with no destination in mind, his thoughts tumbling over one another.

So, after a year, this was the end. Helen should have known that Grace meant nothing to him. Had he not done everything except tell her bluntly that he was not interested? But Helen thought otherwise and had started acting up to that Charlie with the patent-leather hair.

Jerry's thoughts were rudely jerked back to the present by the sound of screeching brakes and the vitriolic trade of a truck driver. He was crossing a street with the red light against him. Grinning sheepishly he glanced at the street sign to determine his location, then started, surprised. He was only one block from home. His subconscious mind had directed him to the route habitually followed when returning from work.

Jerry turned the corner slowly. Suddenly his mouth felt dry. There was a sickening void where his stomach should have been. Weights seemed attached to his feet as he shambled on unwillingly, yet unable to stop. In front of the house was the furniture. No chance of his mistaking that "Modernistic Design." One of the draymen went in as Jerry came abreast the dwelling. The second one said:

"Gotta match, pal?"

"No. But will a lighter do?"

"Okay. Thanks."

He accepted the instrument and began the somewhat difficult task



Helen had started acting up to that Charlie with the patent-leather hair.

of endeavoring to light his pipe with a cigarette lighter.

"Beats all," he grumbled between puffs, "how much extra work people can cause. Take this customer, for instance. We get her stuff all packed, drives to her new place, and what happens? Says she's changed her mind and wants it hauled back."

"What!" exclaimed Jerry.

"Yeah," the mover continued. "I was surprised myself. But I think she's nuts. When we get back here she bursts out crying and runs up the steps like . . . Hey, here's your—"

The drayman removed his pipe from between slack lips. He scratched the lobe of his ear with the stem and a puzzled frown wrinkled his face.

He started to pick up a chair to carry in. Then he began to grin.

Dropping the chair, he hoisted the loveseat on his back.

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White Pine, Big Favorite, Offers Most Varied Uses

Of all American woods none has been more significant than white pine. Nowhere else is there a wood so light that grows so tall.

Within 90 years of their arrival, the Pilgrims were exporting white pine all the way to Madagascar. A single tree made a mast tall as a ship could carry, yet so light it was never topheavy. When the English navy sailed to some of its greatest victories in the 18th century, it spread its sails on masts and yards of New England white pine, says Donald Culross Peattie, in American Forests.

White pine built New England's loveliest colonial mansions and churches. A favorite of the carpenter, it works smoothly under the plane, and shrinks or swells little when properly seasoned. Fleets were launched to export white pine, railroads were bent to great stands of it, mushroom cities rose in its clearings, and it founded great fortunes. Under its boughs evolved the American lumberjack.

For toughness our pioneers turned to hickory. Not steel itself is as shock resistant. So the Norwegian ski champion wants to know that, when he takes that flying leap, his life is insured by good American hickory under his feet. As a fuel, a cord of hickory almost equals in thermal units a ton of anthracite, and epicures will have no smoked hams but those cured over green hickory coals, so subtle is their aroma.

Every American soldier, from Washington's armies to Eisenhower's, has known the feel of a native bald walnut rifle stock under his palm. Under hard usage, walnut does not splinter; instead of growing rougher with handling, it becomes smoother.

Ear Trouble in Dogs

Most ear diseases in dogs start as simple irritations of the ear canal. Dogs with floppy ears are particularly susceptible to such infections. Because mild inflammation can be treated more effectively and will heal faster, owners should make it a practice to inspect their dogs' ears at regular intervals, in order to detect early signs of disease. Infection may develop rapidly if burrs, twigs, seeds and water find their way into the ear canal. It is a mistake to think of all canine ear troubles as canker, or to delay having infections treated until they reach the canker stage. Usually, gentle cleansing of the ears will remove wax and foreign material which, if allowed to remain, may cause severe inflammation. Either an oily preparation should be used for routine cleansing and should be applied with a wooden applicator wound softly and thickly with cotton, care being taken not to exert pressure on the tender tissues.

Antarctica, Frozen Continent

The Antarctic is the one entirely unexploited continent on earth. Up to this time there has been no economic temptation in its frozen wastes; no gold or slaves or spices have lured men down there. Only coal has been found in bulk so far, and its potential value has been considerably lessened by the difficulties and expense of getting it out. The ice cap which covers most of the continent confines prospectors to the coastal fringes. Nevertheless, there has been a scramble by various nations for a foothold on what until now has been considered the most useless land mass on our planet. Potentialities of Antarctica as a source of minerals is one factor, and the acquisition of bases to guard vital southern lifelines is another.

CHURCH NOTES

TRINITARIAN CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Rev. Joseph W. Reeves, Minister
9:55 a.m. Church School.
10:00 a.m. Young People's Forum.

10:00 a.m. Men's Bible Class.
11:00 a.m. Public Worship. World wide Communion Sunday. Miss Annie Campbell will speak. Mr. Reeves will conduct the observance of Holy Communion.

7:00 p.m. A public service in the vestry conducted by the Pilgrim Fellowship. Miss Annie Campbell, who returned in mid-September from serving the Congregational Church in England and Europe will speak. The public is cordially invited.

Thursday
10:30 First fall meeting of the Ladies' Sewing Society. Lunch at noon.

Friday
7:45 p.m. The Auxiliary will meet with Mrs. Handy and Miss Handy. Miss Munde will review the first chapter of "On Our Own Doorsteps."

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
South Vernon, Vt.
Rev. Elvin W. Blackstone
Services every Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Sunday School, 11:45 a.m.
Loyal Workers, 6:45 p.m.
Praise Service, 7:30 p.m.
Weekly Prayer Meeting, Thursday at 7:45 p.m.

UNITARIAN CHURCH
Sunday, October 3,
11:00 a.m. Service and Sermon.
ST. PATRICK'S ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
Rev. Henry J. McCormack, Pastor
Masses: First Sunday of Month, 8:30 a.m. All other Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

FREE METHODIST CHURCH
Rev. Helen D. Bassett, Pastor
10:30 a.m. Service and Sermon, "Fruit-Bearing Christians."
11:30 a.m. Sunday School.
7:30 p.m. Prayer and praise service.

Wednesday, October 6
Mid-week prayer service.
W. M. S. Monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Helen Bassett.

ADVENT CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWS
A Youth Rally will be held at the Advent Christian Church, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m., instead of the usual 6:30 and 7 p.m. meetings. There will be a special service with music. Young people from other Christian Advent churches in Western Massachusetts will attend.
Rally Sunday at the Advent Christian Church will be held on October 10 at a combined service at 11 a.m. The program will be given by members of the N. E. School of Theology, Brookline Mass. Members of the church are asked to bring offerings of vegetables, canned foods, or money, to be donated to the school.

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WANTED — A copy of "The Puritan Outpost", and the "Temple and Sheldon History of Northfield". Call 429.

FOR SALE — 1 ANDES range, coal or wood. 1 Brown Enamel circulating heater, coal or wood. 1 white enamel 5 burner Florence Cook stove. All in good condition. Price reasonable. Phone 817.

A. Y. H. News

CORONET magazine sent a young couple to Northfield this week to interview Isabel and Monroe Smith for a feature story to appear in a forthcoming issue. The writers were interested to learn that Monroe was born on a farm, only 17 miles away, in Sunderland, and that Isabel was an art student and later a teacher at the Norwich Art Academy. The question has often been raised as to why Northfield was chosen to be the national headquarters of the youth hostel movement in America. The writers learned that a great deal of research and thought went into the project of establishing the first youth hostel. Northfield was picked because it was centrally located in the New England states, because it was close to many of the major educational institutions in the Connecticut River Valley, because there was a good network of secondary roads serving the area, and, of course, because of the scenic beauty with which Northfield is surrounded. Since hostellers travel on foot, by bicycle, by horseback, by canoe, and on skis, it was felt necessary that the first American Youth Hostel be easily accessible by each of these means of transportation.

Since the day that it opened its doors in 1934, the Northfield Youth Hostel has welcomed over 15,000 hostellers. They have come from every state in the union and from almost every country in Europe, finding here a warm welcome and the friendliness which so characterizes hostellers throughout the world.

Mother Nature Dons New Look For Fall

Fall foliage is beginning to appear here and there. Many sections of New Hampshire, particularly along Route 119 through Rindge and Fitzwilliam, are reporting that the colorful fall foliage season is on its way.

Generally however the color is first reported in the northern section of N. H., while it tends to linger longer in the southern section. Color camera enthusiasts can be assured that in a week or so the fall foliage will be out in full photographic splendor.

Year after year vacationists and residents alike have made their annual pilgrimage through this area searching for the extraordinary scenes that Mother Nature has provided.

P-T. A. News

Due to the holiday, the P-T. A. will meet a week earlier on Oct. 6 in Alexander Hall, at 8 p. m. "Health" will be the subject of the program with Dr. F. Wilton Dean, School physician as speaker. Miss Barbara Mankowsky, town Public Health Nurse, will tell of her work, while Miss Mary E. Lewis, of Ashburn, head of public health nursing in Franklin County will speak on the county health program.

Northfield P-T. A. members attending the extension service leader's course Friday morning, see Mrs. Edgar J. Livingston, Mrs. Charles Schmitt and Mrs. Gerald Quigley.



Farm Topics

Four Measures Listed To Curb Elm Disease

Increasing Toll Noted Over Widespread Area

The dread Dutch elm disease, killer of thousands of trees, is spreading rapidly over large areas.

Control measures should include: (1) Pruning and burning of all dead material from elms; (2) removing of the bark before elm wood is stored or dumped; (3) piling of stored elm wood in a dry building or cellar; (4) removing and burning promptly all elm trees killed by the disease.

There are three good clues for spotting the diseased trees, according to University of Massachusetts specialists. Evidence of woodpecker work is one. Where strips of bark have been removed from tree limbs it may indicate that woodpeckers are feeding on elm bark beetles, carriers of the Dutch elm disease.

Shepherd's crooks are another sign of the disease. These crooks are twisted twigs branching out at the end of last season's growth. Third, lack of spring buds may indicate that the trees have been attacked by the disease.

Early detection of the disease will aid control measures, foresters say.

Electricity Serves New Chore in Poultry House

Electricity has added one more chore to its list of poultry operations. It has invaded the egg storage room in a battle against mold and musty odors.

Accompanying picture shows how this battle is being fought on a Virginia farm. The "armament" consists of two bactericidal lights. From a central place on the ceiling, the lights radiate powerful germ-killing rays into every part of the room.

The egg storage room has been free of mold and musty odors since the equipment was installed three years ago. As a result, eggs stored there have been rated as "top quality" and sold at premium prices.

Electricity also lends a hand in incubating and brooding operations; cleaning and grading eggs; ventilating and lighting poultry houses; de-bunking, watering and, finally, after killing, in removing feathers and plucking for "delayed home use or commercial sale."

Use of electricity on farms has made marked strides recently.



Virginia farmer fights mold in his egg room with two bactericidal lights.

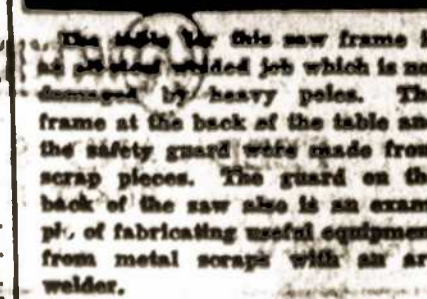
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Use of electricity on farms has made marked strides recently.

Farm Saw Frame

The idea for this saw frame is as practical as the job which is not damaged by heavy poles. The frame at the back of the table and the safety guard with made from scrap pieces. The guard on the back of the saw also is an example of fabricating useful equipment from metal scrap with an arc welder.



Wisconsin Notes Drop In Dairy Cow Numbers

At the beginning of 1948, Wisconsin, America's greatest dairy state, had 2,800,000 cows and heifers, two years old or over, kept for milk, also 1,015,000 heifer calves and heifers one to two years old kept for milk cows. Compared with a year ago, the number of milk cows declined 51,000 and the number of young stock kept for future milk cows decreased 16,000.

Program A Huge Success at Center School Open House

The impromptu open house held at the Center School on Sept. 24 was so successful that plans are being made to hold another one at some future date.

More than 80 people came to the Center School for the program, where they visited the school lunch rooms, watched a pet show, registered in the guest book and witnessed an outdoor parade, consisting of animals, carts and ponies.

The teachers were highly gratified at the response to this open house, and indicated that the next open house would be preceded by a longer period of preparation.

Teachers in charge were: Miss Elizabeth Bralley, Mrs. Willis Parker, Miss Mary Dalton, Mrs. Edward Bolton, Mrs. Elizabeth Hudson, Mrs. Virginia Haack, Mrs. Ruth Stebbins, and Miss Dorothy Totman. They were assisted by the following students: Shirley Clough, June Moore, Irene Deolite, Edithworth Black and Stephen Matosky.

Grade 1: Lois Heseltin, Bradley Sanborn, Linda Ziabli, Richard Maynard, Rachel True, Kay Lombard, Jessie Skinner, Frances Miller, Vincent Mankowski, Karla Eastman, Gail Livermore, Sandra Quinlan, Antoinette Deemia, Lynn Casey, Sheila Raymond, Brenda Leater, James Averill and Richard Miller.

Grade 2: Susan Hammond, Francis Sobieski, Donald Stebbins, Curtis Shins, Richard Leach, Patrick Archambo, James Neigh, Susan Hammond, Martha Jones, Shirley Kelley, Gloria Clough, David Hammond, Jonathan Smith, Colleen Barber, Peter Scanlon, Marion Jewett, Betsy Glazier, Bette Mann, Kathryn Doderhoff, Rachel Browning, Margaret Streeter, Lewis Starkey, Donna Hayes, and Terry Aldrich.

Grade 3: Edward Benney, David Billings, Lance Carpenter, Gareth Casey, James Dresser, Allan Griswold, Karyl Kervian, Georgianna Miller, Marilyn Porter, David Scobie, David Shine, Frank Stewart, John True, Harry White, Martha Miller, David Hart, Robert Ware, and Teresa Gravel.

Grade 4: Martha Parsons, Shirley Raymond, Joyce Smith, Lorraine Carter, Stanley Gaida, Alan Borton, Theodore Miller, Fred Avery, Judy Thompson, David Hiller, Beverly Dumbreck, Seth Parker, Judith Stevens, David Lilly, Ronald Griswold, Adriel Carpenter, Virginia Phelan, Shirley Kenney, Beatrice Bennett, Russell Reed, Roger Holloway, Joyce Smith, Rita

Gibson, William James and Lorraine Carter.

Grade 5: John Bennett, Bruce Benney, Martha Jane Bigelow, Jean Fisher, Joseph Fortier, Donna Glasser, Stephanie Horton, Nancy Mann, Eleanor Moon, Ann Parker, Robert Parsons, Ronald Quinlan, Robert Scott, Gerald Scott, Gerald Stebbins, May Cook, George Mello, Glenn Stewart, David Amidon, Nancy Gifford, Joan Farris, Jean Fisher, Everett Aldrich, Charles Field, and Patricia Leach.

Grade 6: Florin Andrew, Mary Ellen Harrow, Donald Hiller, Beverly Williams, Miner Carpenter, Delores Fisher, Douglas Pearsall, Arlen Sibley, Ronald Zabko, William Stewart, Donald Williams, Norman Dean, Charles Chamberlain, David Scott, June Moore, Germaine Durant, Marie Clark, Paul Jordan, John Mankowsky, Marvin Holloway, Richard Williams, Edithworth Black, Wallis Black, Irene Deolite, Janice Randall, and Alice Wood.

Others for the open house were Lawrence Angell, Wallis Black, Charlene Chamberlain, Shirley Clough, Betty McIntire, Stephen Matosky, Janice Randall and Sidney Walker.

The parade around the athletic field behind the school consisted of 23 bicycles, 19 dolls, 2 doll carriages, 1 pony, 4 kittens, 6 dogs, 1 cart and 1 tricycle.

All of the children either had an exhibit or participated in the parade, while some did both. Any number of exhibits were shown, numbering vegetables, needle work, pets, baked cakes, stuffed monkey and many other interesting items.

Town Topics

Approximately 4,100 students, divided almost equally between the three curricula — liberal arts, business administration, and pre-engineering — have been enrolled at the Associated Colleges of Upper New York this fall. ACONY units opening this month include Champlain College in Plattsburg, Sampson College on Seneca Lake, and the Middletown Collegiate Center.

Edward F. Hurley has left for Boston, where he will begin a year's study of embalming.

Rev. Horace F. Holton of Boston has been added to the Board of Incorporators of the Kurn Hattin Homes.

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Climbing Cats in California

Towering palm trees, which range from 75 to 90 feet in height, are a challenge to the felines of Southern California. When an adventurous cat climbs to the top of one of these trees, it is usually a one-way trip. The animal begins waiting for help and assistance, but in a frantic call to the ground, it is rescued. The felines, looking down from the treetops, are lined with razor-sharp blades which frighten the cat and discourage him from making a try at descending. To effect a rescue, this humane organization must hire tree trimmers at a cost of from \$80 to \$100 per tree, depending on the labor involved. Cats have been marooned for several days before being rescued.

Valley of Two Rivers a Desert

Iraq, supposed site of the Garden of Eden, now looks for all the world like a desert. The land is frightfully hot, perhaps the hottest spot on earth. Rainfall is almost non-existent; a few inches during the year. By camel or car one can travel for days across the monotonous Chol (as the desert is called) without seeing more than a few grass, shrubs and luxuriant tamarisks. Occasionally winter brings terrific blizzards and snowstorms. Two great old rivers, the Tigris and the Euphrates, flow through the land, but no longer do much good. The ancient people of the Valley of the Two Rivers with an elaborate system of canals and trenches but, under centuries of modern Turkish misrule the irrigation system crumbled sadly and much of the valley became a dreary desert. Today's residents, who are mainly Arab Moslems, prefer the name Iraq to the country's former name, Mesopotamia, which means "between the rivers."

Balsa of Ecuador Fast Grower

Of all Ecuador's trees, perhaps more has been written about balsa than any other. Balsa trees are easily distinguishable by their large, broad leaves, about a foot long. Among the most rapidly growing trees known, they spring up like weeds and reach lumber size in less than 10 years. The first year a seedling will elongate more quickly than a corn plant and will reach a greater height. Maximum size is about 100 feet in height and four feet in trunk diameter. Balsa has large brownish-green, succulent flowers, about eight inches in length.

Then Came the Tub

The indoor bath was brought about when water systems were introduced into cities in the early 1800s. By 1830 the revolutionary idea of a warm bath three times a week was the "sin" of a crusader. By the 1890s the U. S. owned 95 per cent of all tubs in the world and had begun to go in for such variations of the standard porcelain tub as solid oak tubs, marble tubs and tubs with solid gold fixtures.

POLITICALLY SPEAKING

State-wide returns in the recent primaries indicate that the Democrats cast a total of 330,000 votes as compared with the Republican total of 271,200.

A concentrated effort to insure a record "Yes" vote by the Massachusetts electorate November 2nd on the "Good Roads Amendment" (Question No. 2 on the ballot, providing for an amendment to the state constitution dedicating all highway user revenues to highway purposes) will be made by the recently organized, state-wide, non-partisan "Massachusetts Good Roads Committee." It was announced today by Richard S. Bowers, prominent Boston attorney and chairman of the committee.

Town Topics

There are about 1600 students at Champlain College this year. Among the new students attending Champlain are: Edwin Finch of Pine Street, East Northfield. He is a business administration student. Mrs. Gertrude Whitney has returned from a trip to Cuttingville, Vt., where she stayed with Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Pratt. During her stay she did several oil paintings of local scenes and made many side trips to see the fall foliage.

Nearly 400 organizations of all types — business, professional, farm, civic and fraternal — representing a combined membership of several hundred thousand persons are included in the Massachusetts Good Roads Committee," Mr. Bowers said.

The committee has enrolled virtually the entire list of affiliates of the Massachusetts Highway Users Conference, whose chairman, Mr. James N. Keefe of Lawrence, is president of the Massachusetts Federation of American Automobile Association Clubs; and many other organizations. Included among them are the Greater Boston Development Committee, the Massachusetts Division of the New England Council, the Massachusetts State Grange, the Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation and the New England Road Builders Association.

"Our legislators have done their part in giving overwhelming support and approval to the proposed amendment at two successive sessions of the General Court. Democrats and Republicans alike gave the measure virtually unanimous endorsement. In 1946 the vote was 220 to 28, and in 1947 it was 228 to 5."

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